

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

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AS-01 SAJ-01 /085 W

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R 171014Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9369

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PORG, ILO, FI, XZ

SUBJECT: FINNISH VIEWS ON US NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO

REF: HELSINKI 2445; STATE 270797; COPENHAGEN 3358;

STOCKHOLM 5816

1. SUMMARY: NORDIC GOVERNMENTS WERE TO DISCUSS INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO FACILITATE U.S. REMAINING IN ILO AT LABOR MINISTERS' MEETING HELD OUTSIDE REGULAR AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 15 NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING IN STOCKHOLM. DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE WITH ILO OFFICIALS IN GENEVA THIS WEEK. IN FINLAND, SYMPATHY WITH U.S. COMPLAINTS IS MIXED WITH CONCERN THAT US HAS OVERREACTED AND IS PICKING ON ILO WHICH IS ONLY PART OF A MORE GENERAL PROBLEM. IN LEFT-WING CIRCLES THE CRITICISM OF US ACTION IS MORE DIRECT AND OFTEN FOCUSSED ON ROLE OF AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH OFFICIAL OF FINNISH MINISTRY

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OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS NOVEMBER 14 LABATT GAINED FURTHER

INSIGHT INTO FINNISH THINKING WITH REGARD TO CURRENT SITUATION IN ILO. AT PREVIOUS DAY'S MEETING MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SOCIAL AFFAIRS (LAHTINEN), AND LABOR APPROVED PAPER GIVING FINNISH REPRESENTATIVES AT NORDIC COUNCIL GREEN LIGHT TO CONCUR IN COMMONLY AGREED NORDIC INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO FACILITATE US REMAINING IN ILO. FINNISH PAPER NOTED THAT JOINT NORDIC APPROACH TO US AUTHORITIES MIGHT HAVE FAVORABLE EFFECT BUT THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO WAIT UNTIL FUROR IN US OVER UN'S ZIONISM RESOLUTION HAD DIED DOWN. ONLY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL IN FINNISH PAPER IS THAT SCANDINAVIANS SUPPORT DETAILED EXAMINATION OF DIVISION OF POSITIONS BY NATIONALITY IN ILO SECRETARIAT WITH VIEW TO ASSISTING US IN ITS REPRESENTATION.

3. FINNISH PAPER ALSO DISCUSSES "ADVANCE" PAYMENT OF 1976 ASSESSMENTS BY SCANDINAVIANS TO EASE ILO'S CURRENT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, WHICH EXPLAINS FINNS' PARTICULAR INTEREST IN LIKELIHOOD OF US MEETING ITS ASSESSMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE SWEDES HAVE ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY HALF THEIR CY 1976 ASSESSMENT IN ADVANCE. FINNS ARE CONSIDERING FOLLOWING SUIT.

4. INITIATIVE FOR NOVEMBER 15 DISCUSSIONS IN STOCKHOLM CAME FROM NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF LABOR. MEETING OF SCANDINAVIAN LABOR MINISTERS WAS TO BE HELD OUTSIDE REGULAR NORDIC COUNCIL AGENDA.

5. ALTHOUGH FINNISH GOVERNMENT SHARES US CONCERN ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ILO, IT IS WORRIED THAT SPECIFICITY OF US COMPLAINTS MAY MAKE SOLUTION DIFFICULT TO FIND. UNOFFICIALLY, OUR CONTACTS HAVE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT "LABORED" ARGUMENTS IN KISSINGER LETTER ARE CONTRARY TO HISTORIC TRADITIONS OF US FOREIGN POLICY, ADDING THAT "AN ELEPHANT SHOULD BE ABLE TO IGNORE ANTICS OF MICE."

6. FINNISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HAS NOT COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON US ACTION. LEFT-WING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, HOWEVER, SUCH AS TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (SAK) CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KARI TAPIOLA AND MP JACOB SODERMAN (FORMER MEMBER OF ILO GOVERNING BOARD) FEEL THAT US HAS OVERREACTED. IN THEIR VIEW US "PICKING ON" ILO IS ASCRIBABLE TO INFLUENCE OF GEORGE MEANY. THEY TOOK NOTE THAT PLO GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS IN OTHER UN BODIES AND IN UNGA ITSELF AND THAT PASSAGE OF UNREALISTIC POLITICALLY-ORIENTED RESOLUTIONS IS ALSO A COMMON FEATURE OF UN ORGANIZATIONS NOT LIKELY

TO BE SOLVED BY US THREAT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO.  
TAPIOLA SHRUGS OFF POLITICAL SPEECHES AT ILO CONFERENCE, SAYING THAT FEW PEOPLE PAY ANY ATTENTION TO WHAT GOES ON IN PLENARY HALL AND THAT SERIOUS WORK GOES FORWARD UNIMPEDED IN COMMITTEES.

7. TAPIOLA'S ALMOST CAVALIER DISMISSAL OF SERIOUSNESS OF US CONCERN IS NOT WHOLLY SHARED BY MORE CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP OF FINNISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. SAK CHAIRMAN OIVIO AND TVK ("WHITE COLLAR" FEDERATION) CHAIRMAN LAAKSO WILL PROBABLY CONCUR IN ANY NORDIC TRADE UNION COUNCIL (NTUC) EFFORT TO PLAY CONCILIATORY ROLE.

8. FINNISH EMPLOYERS HAVE ALSO NOT REACTED PUBLICLY. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION (STK) INTERNATIONAL EXPERT EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH US CRITICISMS BUT WONDERED HOW WHOLEHEARTEDLY US EMPLOYERS GROUP SUPPORTED DECISION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT. STK REPRESENTATIVE ALSO STATED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, ILO'S TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE HAS BEEN MORE STRENGTHENED THAN WEAKENED IN RECENT YEARS. HE NOTED PARTICULARLY OBLIGATION TO ESTABLISH TRIPARTITISM ON NATIONAL LEVEL GIVING BOTH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN MANY DECISIONS FROM WHICH THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY EXCLUDED.

9. FINNISH ILO EXPERTS ARE CURRENTLY IN GENEVA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SCANDINAVIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL MEET DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD AND OTHER SENIOR ILO OFFICIALS FOR DISCUSSIONS IN LIGHT OF STOCKHOLM MEETING.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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